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***** MEDIA ADVISORY *** PHOTO & BROADCAST OPPORTUNITY *****

**2015 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS IN THE ARTS AND THREE-TIME EMMY
AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS DEBBIE ALLEN PRESENT
FREE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE
*A SALUTE TO THE 2015 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS***

MONDAY, JUNE 22 AT 8PM
JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Visual Arts Exhibition Also On View Between 10AM and 9PM in the Hall of Nations

WHAT **A Salute to the 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars**
Celebrate the achievements of this year's U.S. Presidential Scholars through this free, public performance in the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The evening will highlight the 20 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, all of whom are National YoungArts Foundation alumni, in a multi-disciplinary piece directed by Debbie Allen, three-time Emmy Award-winning actress, Drama Desk Award Winner, Olivier Award Winner, actress, dancer, choreographer, director and producer, and former member of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. This inspiring evening will showcase the incredible talent of these emerging artists and provides an example of the type of invaluable opportunities that YoungArts provides to its alumni.

Debbie Allen Directors Note:

"Who Am I In The Universe?" This is the question I have explored with 20 of the most gifted young artists who will soon emerge as well known, seasoned professionals—young artists whose visions, voices, and fearlessness will revolutionize and inspire humanity. Tonight's presentation is a fusion of original and classic music, dance, poetry, visual art, and theater that will broaden the footprint of what is possible when we speak the language of the arts. It is always a blessing and a privilege to be at the Kennedy Center and to honor the gift of creativity, which is the closest to God that we come. *'Be true, be beautiful, be free.'* —Vivian Ayres"

Exhibition of Artwork and Writing by the 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts

Before and after the performance a free public exhibition of artwork and writings by of some the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts will be on view in the Hall of Nations.

WHEN **Monday, June 22**
Crews must be set up by 7:30pm.
Performance begins at 8pm.

10am – 9pm: Exhibition of Artwork and Writing by the 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts

WHERE **The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts**
Concert Hall and Hall of Nations
2700 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20566

Directions and parking info, click [here](#).

The performance will be streamed live on youngarts.org.

WHO For a list of the 2015 U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts please click [here](#).

Tickets FREE, but tickets required. Call the U.S. Presidential Scholars line before June 17 at (202) 401- 0961 or email presidential.scholars@ed.gov.

MORE INFO <http://www.youngarts.org/us-presidential-scholars-arts>

ABOUT THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

For 51 years the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored more than 6,500 of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. Initiated by President Johnson in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program annually honors 141 Scholars, including one young man and woman from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Americans living abroad, and 15 students chosen at large. In 1979 President Carter expanded the program to honor up to 20 students for outstanding scholarship and artistic achievement. A commission appointed by the president is responsible for selecting Scholars from an initial pool of approximately 4,000 candidates. Commissioners are selected from throughout the nation, representing the fields of education, medicine, law, social services, business, the arts, and other professions. YoungArts is the nominating agency for the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts, identifying candidates from among the winners of its annual national program. YoungArts begins with more than 11,000 applicants and ultimately nominates 60 YoungArts finalists for consideration by the Commission. It is through a rigorous selection and review process administered by the U.S. Department of Education that Scholars are selected on the basis of academic and artistic success, leadership, service in school and the community, and creativity. The U.S. Presidential Scholars are invited to Washington, D.C., for recognition activities. The Scholars meet with government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists, and other leaders. Scholars also visit museums and monuments of the nation's capital and attend recitals, receptions, and ceremonies in their honor. All U.S. Presidential Scholars will be honored with a Presidential Medallion, and the U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts will show their artwork and perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Each Scholar is asked to select a teacher who has most inspired and guided him or her. These teachers receive a letter of congratulations from the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and support the next generation of artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts; assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development; and raise appreciation for the arts in American society. Each year, there are approximately 11,000 applications to YoungArts from 15-18 year old (or grades 10-12) artists, and from these, approximately 800 winners are selected.

YoungArts provides these emerging artists with life-changing experiences and validation by renowned mentors, access to significant scholarships, national recognition and other opportunities at critical junctures throughout their careers to help ensure that the nation's most outstanding emerging artists are encouraged to pursue careers in the arts. To date, YoungArts has honored more than 20,000 alumni - including Doug Aitken, Josh Groban, Jenji Kohan, Desmond Richardson and Kerry Washington - with over \$12 million in monetary awards; facilitated in excess of \$60 million in college scholarship opportunities in the past two years; and enabled its participants to work with master teachers who are among the most distinguished artists in the world, such as Marina Abramović, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Zaha Hadid, Jeff Koons, Robert Redford and Bruce Weber. Carnival Foundation is the YoungArts National Premier Sponsor.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, [facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation) or twitter.com/YoungArts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, [click here](#).